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AN ANCIENT RACE-BLENDING REGION IN THE PACIFIC

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RACE TABOOS

It is generally admitted by ethnologists that there is no pure race in the strictest sense of the term on the face of the earth. Crossing began early in the history of mankind especially on the borders of the regions in which the three great types were getting fixed, the negroid, the mongoloid and the caucasoid. Before the formation of empires and still more before the growth of tribal organization there was fuller scope for this hybridization. The widespread, almost universal, exogamy of the period of clan organization crystallized the custom of crossing different strains into a fixed convention, and this defined and circumscribed the old freedom of blending. The circumscription became still more pronounced when the military empires arose and blocked the free migration-routes across the world. They raised a barrier between nation and nation and internally between the subject peoples and the free. And a definition of the scope of intermarriage, though only traditional and social, held as strict dominance as in the narrower clan-exogamy. It was only the inevitable tendency of the ruling classes or wealthier classes to die out that turned the barriers into filters for new blood and new types of crosses. The enfeeblement of the Roman Empire and the irruption of the hordes from the East rent the bonds that had made Asia and Europe one continent for so many tens of thousands of years. And in the meantime there has grown up a strict marriage-quarantine between Oriental and Occidental, made stricter by the barriers of differentiation of language, religion and culture. And it will be many generations, if not centuries, before these taboos can be even partially neutralized.

This marriage-quarantine seems to be less strict on islands, especially on oceanic islands. There is an inclination to welcome the stranger instead of sacrificing him, unless their area is narrowing and getting less capable of supporting their native population. Sea-traffic seems to keep the racial pores opened and the sailor seems less strict in his insistence on racial superiority and inferiority. Sea-routes were never blocked even partially till the days of piracy or efficiently till the days of modern navies. Archipelagoes therefore have tended to have more racial intermixture than land-areas.

MICRONESIA A RACE ALSATIA

Of one region in the Pacific that is now but an oceanic desert stippled with islets is this particularly true. This is Micronesia proper, lying north of the Equator and east of the Philippines, and covering the Carolines in the center, the Pelews and Yap to the west, the Marshalls to the east and the Mariannes to the north. They extend two thousand miles east and west and fifteen hundred north and south. But between the groups and even the separate islands of some groups run vast seas that for intercourse between them demand a voyage of hundreds of unisleted miles. Here there is evidence in the physique of the people that the three great divisions of mankind have intermixed. None of them exist pure in any part of the region. For the islands are too small to afford refuges for defeated peoples like the mountains in the Philippines and New Guinea, which have hidden away and protected fragments of the primeval pigmy or negritto race. But in Ponape, as in many of the larger islands of the Pacific, the natives will not venture far inland from fear of the fairies or little people; and in the forested mountains of Metalanim in the south-east of the island there are megalithic graves that are said to be those of the Kichin Aramach or Little Men, who are described as having had dark skin and spreadout nostrils. The size of the graves, four to four and a half feet, may have suggested the tradition that the aboriginal negritos were

buried here, though the crouched position of the bodies might account for this. But in the faces of many of the existing Ponapeans and in their stature there is manifest a distinct negritto strain, round head, flattened nostrils, thick lips, protruding underjaw and tufted hair. So far from uncommon is this phenomenon through all the islands of Micronesia that we need not be afraid to assume a primeval negritto basis for the population, as in all those archipelagoes that stretch out from the coasts of south-east Asia even as far as Fiji. And in their languages there is something distinctively Papuan, marking them off from the Polynesian on the one side and the Indonesian on the other. But if these little people of the mountains are assumed to be the relics of the primeval population of these far-sprinkled archipelagoes, as it is rational, if not also scientific, to assume, then we shall also have to assume narrower sea-spaces between them in early human days. The unoceanic character of primitive navigation makes it an axiom that the pigmy negritos could not have reached so far into the Pacific as Fiji or the Marshall Islands unless there had been wider island-areas with narrower straits between them.

The ethnological phenomena of the lands and islands of the old world seem to make it certain that there was an early expansion of the Caucasoid people over most of them. And over Micronesia the new wave flowed, perhaps partially from the west, more probably from the northwest because of the more numerous and closer steppingstones from the continent in that direction; and it flowed right over Polynesia, and probably helped to give the sporadic tall forms and European faces to so many of the peoples of Melanesia and the coasts of New Guinea. In many of the islands of Micronesia the handsome European faces and figures form quite a striking feature of the population. In my notes of my visit to the little low coral islet of Uleai on the extreme west of the Carolines I find repeated marks of admiration for the straight fine Grecian noses, the short upper lips, the Tartar-bow-shaped mouths, the oval faces, the brown wavy hair and the tall graceful figures of the natives,

alongside of faces that repelled by their prognathic negroidism and figures that were distinctly pigmy. And *Firé*, the young native of Metalanim who guided me in his canoe through the water-streets of the ruined city, had a face that in its oval outlines and fine features could not have been distinguished from the European.

A MONGOLOID INTRUSION FROM JAPAN

But I had another guide, Alipin, an assistant whom the governor gave me to manage my long expedition to the ruins, and I assumed that he was Japanese till I found that he was a native of the southeast of Ponape; he had the straight raven-black hair, the laterally projecting cheekbones, the swollen eyelids with the slit across them to peer through and the Mongolian fold over the tearduct that mark the typical Japanese. And faces and small figures like his were not infrequent throughout Ponape nor in fact throughout the Carolines and the northern Marshalls. They were still more frequent in the Mariannes to the north, whilst the mongoloid element gets fainter and fainter as we go southwards and eastwards.

There are sporadic but by no means faint indications of a Japanese intrusion even in the culture. The distinctive headgear in the Carolines, where any is used, is a conical hat exactly like that of the Japanese coolie. And in Truk certain families have a secret grip in wrestling which paralyzes exactly like the Japanese *jiu jitsu*. There is a loom in the Mariannes and the Carolines that is distinctly akin to the ancient Japanese loom, and it gets down on to the coast of German and Dutch New Guinea and even as far as the Santa Cruz group between the Solomons and the New Hebrides. To the west in Yap and the Pelews and to the east in the Marshalls and Gilberts and all through Polynesia there is no trace of such a loom. So on the north coast of British New Guinea and in some islands (Vuatom) off the coast of German New Guinea there has been dug up ancient pottery with markings and decorations that resemble those of the pottery found in the Japanese shell-

mounds; and I heard of pottery of a similar advanced primitive type being dug up in one of the northern islands of the Marshall group, a group that has not got the industry; but it had long ago been scattered beyond the possibility of description. And in the coralline limestones beneath the forests of the Mariannes have been found not only pieces of pottery but bronzes that are distinctly Japanese.

A GREAT MEGALITHIC CAPITAL OF THIS ALSATIA

The observant traveller through this region cannot avoid the conclusion that all three divisions of mankind have been intermingled in the population. And that this did not prevent the region attaining to considerable culture and organization is a conclusion inevitable from a visit to the great megalithic ruins that stand on the reef in the southeast of Ponape. Here is a Venice that with its public buildings made of immense basaltic crystals brought from twenty miles distance is said to cover eleven square miles. I spent several hours canoeing along the water-streets and yet left many island blocks with their buildings unvisited. The right-angled islets have been artificially formed on the flat surface of the reef. A great breast-work from five to six feet high has been built of huge basalt beams, some of them four or five feet in diameter. The space enclosed has then been filled up with coral *débris*. On each of them has been erected an edifice with walls from six to fifteen feet thick of the same columnar basalt. The largest that remains, Nan Tauach, I examined with some care. Part of its walls is still thirty feet high. But the hundreds of great stones that cover the floor and are strewn around seem to indicate that they were once at least another ten feet higher. The entrance is spacious and stepped; and in front of it stand basalt columns on end whereon the priests are said to have made the *kava* to offer to the gods and the chiefs. A bench about ten feet high and broad runs round the inside of this great wall and a less broad platform runs around outside of the wall of the inner courtyard. The inner and outer walls are about thirty feet

apart. And in the center of this eighty-five by seventy-five feet court is a megalithic altar which has evidently had the vault below used as a burial place, probably of the kings. In the earth of this were excavated fragments of human bones, shell ornaments and axes, mother-of-pearl hook-shanks and shell-beads in quantity, one piece of obsidian and one iron spearhead. It is not unlikely that the vault had been ransacked before and the ground overhauled in search of treasure. It is the usual fate of underground chambers in impressive ruins. The iron is probably an accident of later history. The rest indicates a culture of the same type as that of the surrounding regions. The shell-hooks may be homed to Polynesia and the shell-discs and beads to Melanesia or to the Pelews and Yap.

A MONGOLOID INTRUSION FROM JAPAN

But the architecture of the place looks to the continent and its adjacent islands and most pointedly to Japan. The houses of Polynesia (except the Maori carved houses in New Zealand), of Melanesia, Papuasia, Indonesia, Siam, Burmah, China make much of the roof and little of the walls. It is in Japan we begin to see the walls take as important a place as the roof. And it is there we find cyclopean foundations and walls, whilst a frieze or coping projecting over the inner wall of Nan Tauach is not unlike the use of timber in the tombs at Nikko. And the use of the basalt crystals in Metalanim might well have been suggested by the great timbers in the temples and tombs of Japan. The roofs have long ago disappeared in the humid tropical climate; but the arrangement of Nan Tauach with its inner courtyard and outer walls had evidently as one of its purposes the erection of a roof like those we see in the great failus or men's club houses of Yap with their forests of pillars. The idea of a Venice or water-city is to be found in Niigata on the west coast of Hondo.

POLYNESIAN RULERS

But whether the architects were Japanese or not the rulers were not Japanese but Polynesians. None but the Polynesians would have made such a ceremony of the making and drinking of kava; this drink manifestly originated in Polynesia and spread sporadically to the west in the southern hemisphere. In the north it has leaped the Ellice, Gilbert and Marshall groups and found a home in Ponape and the other megalithic island to the east, Kusaie. Nor does it go farther west than Ponape. Another Polynesian indication is that father-right obtains in the transmission of chiefship, though mother-right is universal in family and clan. And Polynesia is the only realm of father-right in the Pacific Ocean till we come to Indonesia. The third Polynesian indication is the seacraft that must have been the basis of the power centered in this oceanic Venice. The founders of the city and the empire that it must have ruled were manifestly sailors who came from the southeast. For Metalanim has inside its long break-water water-squares and water-streets for the manoeuvring of great fleets of war-canoes, and it is on the southeast of Ponape and has its only available deepwater entrance on the east. And the Polynesians were the only race that mastered oceanic navigation before the invention of the compass. The very name of the dynasty that ruled, Chau-te-Leur, which is equivalent to Polynesian Hau-te-Roa or The Tall Monarch, points clearly to the stature of the Polynesians, one of the tallest of the races of the world.

SUNKEN EMPIRES IN THE PACIFIC

Such a city as this must have been, when beside these public buildings there were on the little island of Tomun against which it abuts and over the adjacent district of Ponape tens of thousands of huts for the retainers and workmen, indicates that there was an empire around it that must have had millions of inhabitants instead of the fifty thousand that at present inhabit Micronesia. And

this must have been highly organized by its rulers to be able to produce so marvellous an architectural work as this its capital with nothing but shell and stone culture. That there were subsidiary megalithic cities we can see in the islet of Lele on the coast of Kusaie some four hundred miles to the east. The ruins are not so great. But the stones of which they are built are even more colossal. And the same system of canals running along the walls prevails. Doubtless on the great islands that have sunk were similar architectural marvels. And with the submergence of the broad islands sank the rule of this great sea-power of the past.

That this was not the only imperial system in the Pacific islands I am convinced. The marvellously exact sound-laws that formulate the interchange of consonants in the Polynesian dialects, as Grimm's Law formulates consonantal interchange in the Indo-European languages, could not have been evolved at such vast distances as now separate them; some of them are from five to six thousand miles apart. They must have been developed when the dialects faced each other in the same island or island-region with close, almost daily, intercommunication, such as could be afforded only by a unified system of government. So on the southeast coast of Yap there is a relic of another imperial system. All the islets to the east even as far as a thousand miles off send every year tribute to the chief of Gatschepar under the belief that he is a great magician who could if they did not render it cause storms and earthquakes and do them unending mischief. This supernatural reason is the shadow of a great sea-power in the past that had its center in this obscure seacoast village in Yap. Even the stone-money of Yap, most of it huge stone-discs brought with great trouble and risk from Babelthuap in the Pelews four hundred miles away indicates the ancient traffic that implies wide if not imperial organization. It is probable the submergence of great islands, once forming steppingstones between, that dislocated and rent in sunder these great maritime organisms, and sent their inhabitants westwards before the tradewinds to find other resting places. In this

we shall find the key to the mystery that has veiled the origin of the affinity of the Malayo-Polynesian languages; these extend round more than one-half of the globe, from Hawaii and Easter Island to Madagascar. To the ocean they have kept, by the ocean they have spread, and out of the great ocean they must have come. Oceanic sailors and no others could have borne this wonderful linguistic affinity over such a vast oceanic space. That this is the key I have not much doubt, now that I have compared and analyzed large sections of the vocabularies of those languages and found the simple primeval and perfectly transparent form in Polynesian, and away west a dozen or more mutilated or beclouded and enigmatical transformations of it.

THE PACIFIC A RACE-BLENDER

An imperial organization that produced such architectural results as the great city of the southeast of Ponape must have had a powerful unifying and amalgamating influence on the fragments of the three great sections of mankind that had found shelter on its archipelagoes. Had its empire remained above the water alongside of the great Polynesian empire to the east it might have carried racial amalgamation to a pitch that no land empire in the world has ever reached. There would have been no besprinkling of fragmentary Malayo-Polynesian tongues over more than half of the round of the world. But there would have been fewer unmalleable racial fragments in the Pacific Ocean. The world was nearer to racial unification in these neolithic days than ever since. The farther we have receded from them, the more racial barriers have we erected and the more racial taboos we have come to think insuperable. Let us hope the day may come again when the Pacific Ocean will become the intermediary for bringing together the innumerable racial globules that seem past amalgamation.